



# Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending November 29, 2014

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response  
Infectious Disease Bureau – Prevention and Health Promotion Administration  
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*The data presented in this document are provisional and subject to change as additional reports come in.*

## SUMMARY

During the week ending November 29, 2014, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MINIMAL** and there was **WIDESPREAD** geographic activity. The proportion of outpatient visits for ILI reported by Sentinel Providers decreased slightly while the proportion reported by Emergency Departments increased substantially. The proportion of MRITS respondents experiencing ILI dropped. Clinical laboratories saw a sharp rise in the proportion of specimens testing positive for influenza. The DHMH lab had 8 specimens test positive for influenza – all were Type A (H3N2). A total of 26 influenza-associated hospitalizations were reported. There was 1 outbreak of pneumonia. Nationally, influenza activity is increasing.

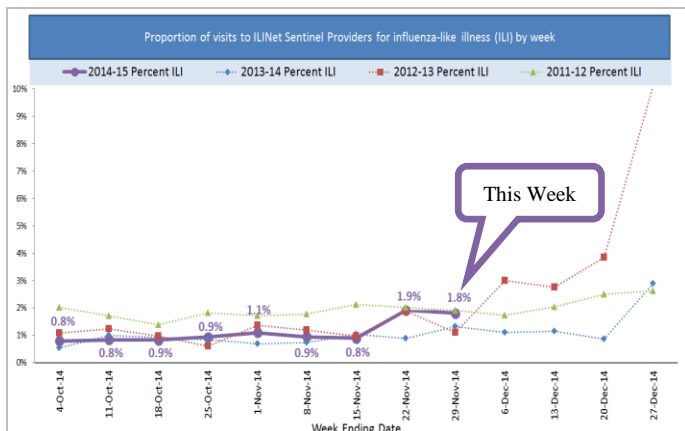
[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

| ILI Intensity Levels |
|----------------------|
| ✓ Minimal            |
| Low                  |
| Moderate             |
| High                 |

| Influenza Geographic Spread |
|-----------------------------|
| No Activity                 |
| Sporadic                    |
| Local                       |
| Regional                    |
| ✓ Widespread                |

## ILINet Sentinel Providers

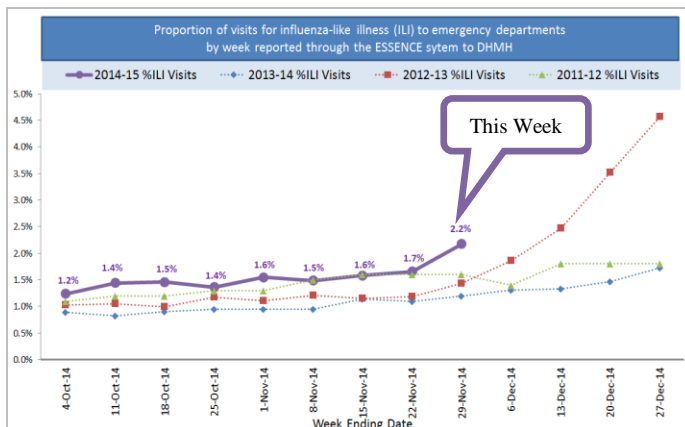
Twenty sentinel providers reported a total of 7,250 visits this week. Of those, 131 (1.8%) were visits for ILI. This is **below** the Maryland baseline of **2.0%**.



| ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group | This Week Number (%) | Last Week Number (%) | Season Number (%) |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Age 0-4                                       | 45 (34%)             | 41 (35%)             | 337 (33%)         |
| Age 5-24                                      | 56 (43%)             | 53 (46%)             | 448 (44%)         |
| Age 25-49                                     | 19 (15%)             | 14 (12%)             | 153 (15%)         |
| Age 50-64                                     | 7 (5%)               | 6 (5%)               | 49 (5%)           |
| Age ≥ 65                                      | 4 (3%)               | 2 (2%)               | 25 (2%)           |
| Total ILI Visits                              | 131 (100%)           | 116 (100%)           | 1012 (100%)       |

## Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 43,552 visits this week through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 947 (2.2%) were visits for ILI.



| ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group | This Week Number (%) | Last Week Number (%) | Season Number (%) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Age 0-4  | 306 (32%)            | 217 (31%)            | 1882 (30%)        |
| Age 5-24   | 349 (37%)            | 231 (33%)            | 2202 (35%)        |
| Age 25-49  | 192 (20%)            | 173 (25%)            | 1406 (23%)        |
| Age 50-64  | 59 (6%)              | 57 (8%)              | 504 (8%)          |
| Age ≥ 65   | 41 (4%)              | 25 (4%)              | 245 (4%)          |
| Unknown  | 0 (0%)               | 0 (0%)               | 3 (<1%)           |
| Total ILI Visits                                 | 947 (100%)           | 703 (100%)           | 6242 (100%)       |

## Other states' influenza information:

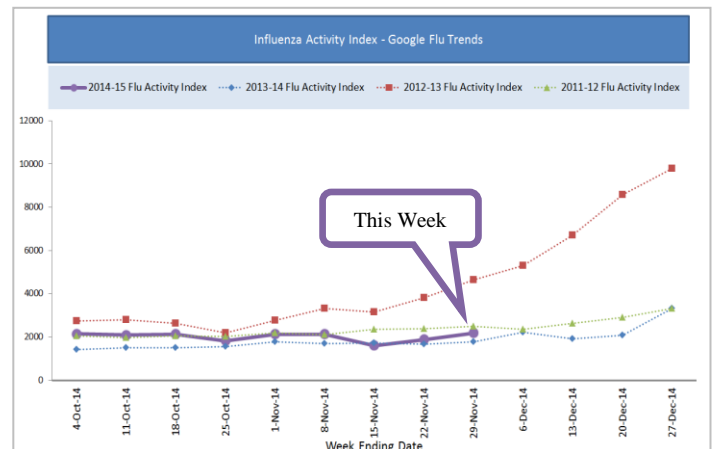
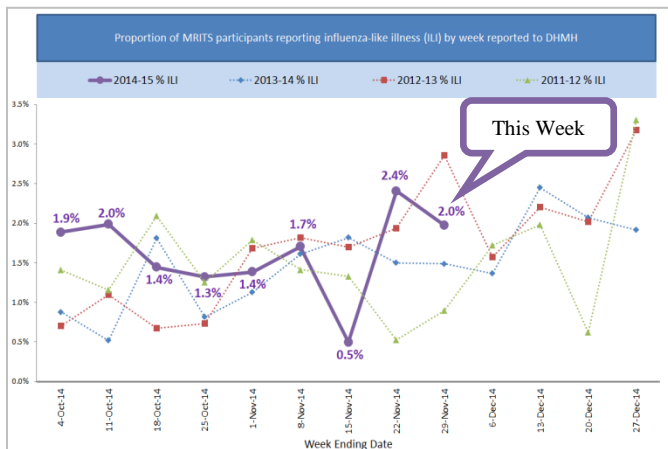
Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>  
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>  
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza\\_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)  
Virginia <http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/flu/>  
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

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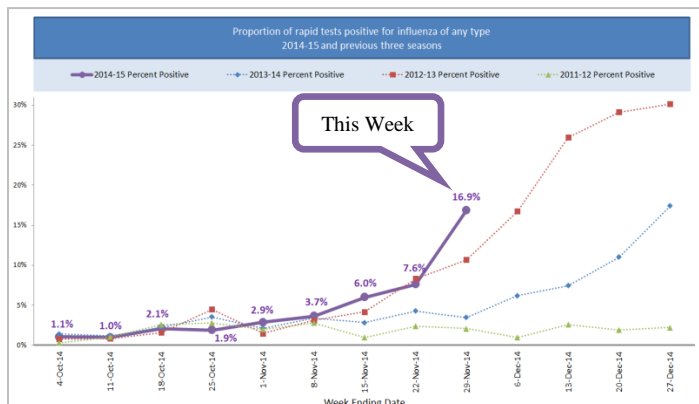
## Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

MRITS is the Maryland Resident Influenza Tracking System, a weekly survey for influenza-like illness (ILI). A total of 607 residents responded to the [MRITS survey](#) this week. Of those, 12 (2.0%) reported having ILI and missing a cumulative 13 days of regular daily activities. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is "Low" in Maryland.

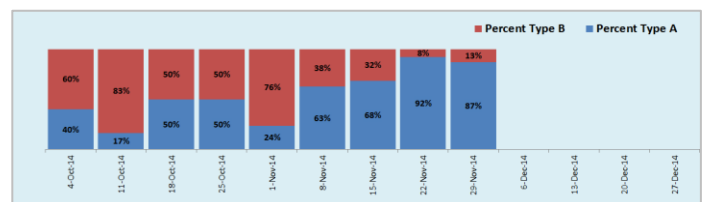


## Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Thirty-three clinical laboratories reported performing 1,037 influenza diagnostic tests, mostly rapid influenza diagnostic tests (RIDTs). Of those, 175 (16.9%) were positive for influenza. Of those testing positive, 152 (86.9%) were influenza Type A and 23 (13.1%) were influenza Type B. The [reliability of RIDTs](#) depends largely on the conditions under which they are used. False-positive (and true-negative) results are more likely to occur when the disease prevalence in the community is low, which is generally at the beginning and end of the influenza season and during the summer.

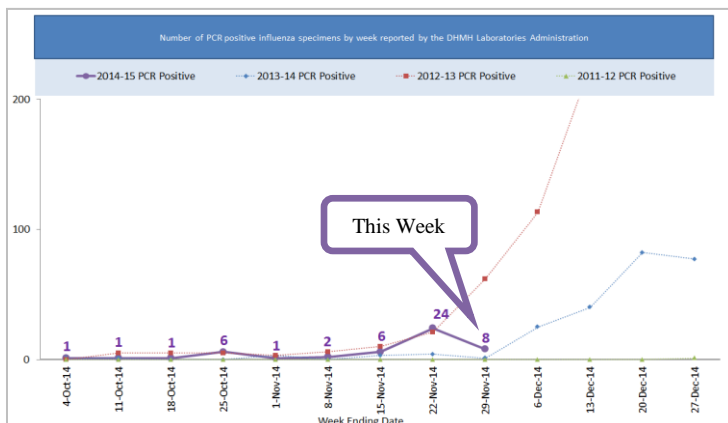


| Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type | This Week Number (%) | Last Week Number (%) | Season Number (%) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Type A                           | 152 (87%)            | 48 (92%)             | 263 (75%)         |
| Type B                           | 23 (13%)             | 4 (8%)               | 86 (25%)          |
| Total                            | 175 (100%)           | 52 (100%)            | 349 (100%)        |



## State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 28 PCR tests for influenza. Of those, 8 (28.6%) specimens tested positive. All were Type A (H3N2). PCR testing is more reliable than RIDT. The DHMH testing identifies subtypes of influenza A, information that is not available from the RIDT results. The table below summarizes results by type and subtype.



| Positive PCR Tests by Type (Subtype) | This Week Number (%) | Last Week Number (%) | Season Number (%) |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Type A (H1)                          | --                   | --                   | --                |
| Type A (H3)                          | 8 (100%)             | 24 (100%)            | 45 (90%)          |
| Type A (H3N2v)                       | --                   | --                   | --                |
| Type B                               | --                   | --                   | 5 (10%)           |
| Total                                | 8 (100%)             | 24 (100%)            | 50 (100%)         |

## Where to get an influenza vaccination

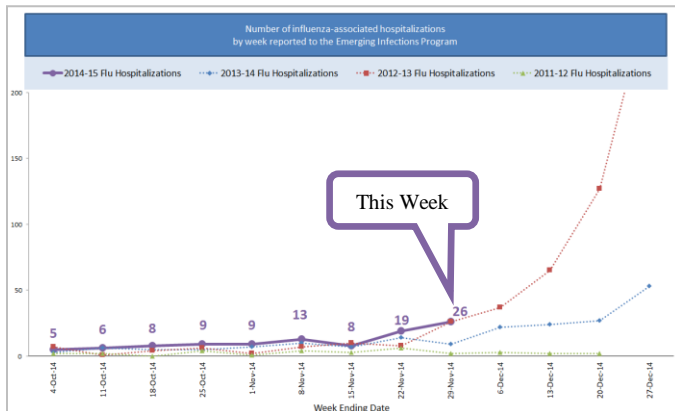
Interested in getting a flu vaccine for the 2014-15 influenza season? Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flum/d/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

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## Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

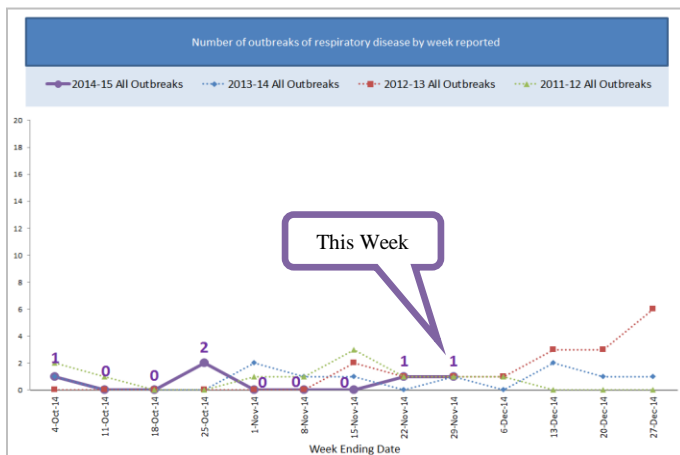
This week, hospitals in Maryland reported 26 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. RIDT or PCR, is considered an “influenza-associated hospitalization” for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



| Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group | This Week Number (%) | Last Week Number (%) | Season Number (%) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Age 0-4  | 2 (8%)               | --                   | 11 (11%)          |
| Age 5-17   | 2 (8%)               | --                   | 5 (5%)            |
| Age 18-24  | 1 (4%)               | 1 (5%)               | 4 (4%)            |
| Age 25-49  | 3 (12%)              | 2 (11%)              | 12 (12%)          |
| Age 50-64  | 4 (15%)              | 3 (16%)              | 21 (20%)          |
| Age ≥ 65   | 14 (54%)             | 13 (68%)             | 50 (49%)          |
| Total  | 26 (100%)            | 19 (100%)            | 103 (100%)        |

## Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

There was 1 pneumonia outbreak reported to DHMH this week. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



| Respiratory Outbreaks by Type | This Week Number (%) | Last Week Number (%) | Season Number (%) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Influenza                     | --                   | --                   | --                |
| Influenza-like Illness        | --                   | --                   | --                |
| Pneumonia                     | 1 (100%)             | 1 (100%)             | 5 (100%)          |
| Other Respiratory             | --                   | --                   | --                |
| Total                         | 1 (100%)             | 1 (100%)             | 5 (100%)          |

## National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During week 46 (November 9-15, 2014), influenza activity was low in the United States:

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 10,304 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories during week 46, 955 (9.3%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-associated Pediatric Deaths:** No influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 1.6%, which is below the national baseline of 2.0%. All 10 regions reported ILI below region-specific baseline levels. Puerto Rico experienced high ILI activity; two states experienced low ILI activity; New York City and 48 states experienced minimal ILI activity; and the District of Columbia had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** The geographic spread of influenza in Puerto Rico and five states was reported as regional; 21 states reported local activity; the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and 23 states reported sporadic activity; one state reported no influenza activity; and Guam did not report.

